



APLD Connecticut Chapter www.apldct.org

February 27, 2014

**Senator Meyer & Representative Gentile, Co Chairs
Joint Committee on the Environment**

As the **Executive Board** of the **Association of Professional Landscape Designers, Connecticut Chapter** (APLD CT), we are contacting you today in reference to proposed bill, **SB No. 238, An Act Establishing A Landscape Contractor License** proposed by the **Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association** (CNLA), which is scheduled for a public hearing on February 28th.

The **Association of Professional Landscape Designers** (APLD) was founded in 1989 as an international organization dedicated to promoting the highest standards for the landscape design profession. The **Connecticut Chapter**, organized in 2009, represents **APLD** members living or working in Connecticut.

At this time we cannot support the bill as written as we find the language vague and inclusive of disciplines other than landscape professionals. The intent of creating a cohesive standard is hindered by this overlap. We, as landscape professionals, feel language needs to be included to define rather than to simply describe services provided by the professionals it intends to cover. We also ask that the Governors appointees be representative of all the Professional Landscape Organizations within the state.

We do appreciate certain aspects of the bill and think if written correctly, could potentially benefit landscape professionals as well as consumers within the state. For example the concept of a multiyear license supported by CEU credits alleviating the requirement of Home Improvement Contractor License [renewed on a yearly basis] is a benefit for the industry.

Please accept this document as our formal statement regarding **SB 238**. As professional landscape designers who live and practice in Connecticut, we think the topic of this bill is important and has the potential to impact our businesses, livelihoods and our families. We look forward to closely following its progress through your committee. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Richard Schipul, President
Designing Eden, LLC, New Milford

Christine Darnell, Vice President
Christine Darnell Gardens, Chester



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